

with the preservation of open space, clean water and air have been a commendable priority for its municipal leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of Stanhope on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history and the building of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL- STAR TEAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities both school related and outside school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

Adam Christopher Denison, Bethany Sue East, Caitlin Jo Hill, Carla Rae Cunningham, Daniel Sean McBride, James William Benson, Stephen Patrick Russell, Amber Mae Cooper, Joshua Gregory Berkley, and Layton Ashley Noel.

Michelle Denise Graham, Stephanie Dawn Hedgepath, Chaz Ganster, Elizabeth Woodward Starling, Jenna Anne Foltz, Jennifer Elaine Martin, Jessica Leigh Monroe, Jessica Renae Durbin, Rosa Ramsey Groves, and Andrew Bryan McGregor.

Christine Caylin Mudrick (Caylin), Elizabeth Marie Silva Collier, Justin Bennet Sedlak, Jr., Lauren Melissa McCormick, Sarah Jane Bodell, Signe Jordan McCullagh, Adam Christopher Denison, Evan Lee Allen, Joquela S. Quarles, and Lacey Dyan McGinnis.

Meagan Kay Bush, Stacy Watkins, Evan Turner Roberts, Justin Bennet Sedlak, Jr., Leigh Ellen West, Lindsey Bell Bostick, Sara Elizabeth Downs, Sarah Savannah Hughes (Savannah), Ashley Lauren Russell, and Benton Russell Avery Farmer.

Holly Marie Sisk, Stephen Wesley Boren, Thabbet Hassan Abukuppeh (Tad), Aaron Lewis Nelson, Clifton Ross Martin, John Christian Cooke Mahre (Chris), Julianna Leigh Sta-

ples, Rebekah Elizabeth Logan, and Savannah Rose Galloway.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

HONORING THE 4TH ANNUAL UDALL YOUTH TASK FORCE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young people in my district, the 4th Annual Udall Youth Task Force.

Every year, I invite high school students throughout the Second Congressional District of Colorado to participate in the Udall Youth Task Force. The Task Force is set up for the purpose of helping young people in the district to become more engaged with their government. Each fall, Task Force members convene to set an agenda of topics they wish to tackle throughout the school year. This year's Task Force has proven to be exceptionally insightful about the issues facing our country. From the war in Iraq, to the environment, to concerns about the erosion of civil liberties, these students show clear understanding about the goings on in Washington, DC, and around the world.

I am aware of the fact that the Task Force members have very busy schedules between jobs, sports and other extracurricular activities. That is why I am so heartened and honored by the fact that these young people have taken the time to be a part of this program. It is inspiring to watch these future leaders of America take interest and pride in their government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional group of young people. We all benefit from their contributions to this great system, and it is my greatest hope that their participation in the Udall Youth Task Force has sparked an interest in public service that will continue throughout their lives.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMP SHELBYVILLE GOLDEN EAGLETES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shelbyville Golden Eaglettes for winning this year's Tennessee Class AAA girls high school basketball championship. The March 13 win earned the Golden Eaglettes a record 12th state title.

Such a feat deserves much respect. The team of highly motivated players went 31–5 this year, capping a championship season with a resounding 57–43 win over a tough Memphis Craigmont team. This is the third year out of the last four that Shelbyville has captured the Class AAA state championship.

Shelbyville residents can be proud of the accomplishments of the Golden Eaglettes, who are a recognized powerhouse in high school girls basketball. I commend the team and its coach, Rick Insell, for an outstanding season and a remarkable achievement.

The following are the members of the 2003–04 state champion Golden Eaglettes: Samantha Houston, Tabatha Almader, Alex Muckle, Latoya Stone, Amy Beech, Kayla Bryant, Brittany Smith, Andria Johnson, Abby Canon, April Snipes, Ashleigh Newman, Katrina Kelly, Alex Fuller, Nisha Buchanan and team managers Sarah Riddle and Anna Sneed. LaBora McCroskey, Chad Spencer, Mark Potts and Jennifer Gray serve as assistant coaches for the team.

CONGRATULATING CITIZENS BANK OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution honoring one of the foremost institutions in my district—Citizens Savings Bank & Trust of Nashville, Tennessee. Citizens Bank enjoys the distinction of being the nation's oldest continuously-operating minority-owned bank and is celebrating a truly significant milestone this year—its 100th anniversary.

Minority-owned banks have played a crucial role in the economic development and revitalization of minority communities across the country. Through dedicated investment in the neighborhoods they serve, minority-owned banks have provided a vital source of economic opportunity and entrepreneurial capital for countless individuals and small businesses, especially those who had historically been underserved by other financial institutions. With combined assets of more than \$48 billion and more than 3 million depositors nationwide, minority-owned banks continue to serve as pillars of economic stability and trust.

Citizens Bank stands as a model example of a minority-owned bank that has made significant and lasting contributions to its community. Founded in 1904 as the One Cent Savings Bank, Citizens Bank has provided funding and economic assistance to entrepreneurs, civic and social groups, educational programs and public schools and universities.

The bank has been especially notable for its service to African-American churches in the Nashville area. Citizens Bank has served as a principal source of financing for the construction and operation of church-based day care centers, assisted living facilities, and other community-based centers that promote the social and economic well-being of Nashville residents. The bank has also donated a great deal of its resources to the economic empowerment of Nashville residents by offering free home-buying and consumer education seminars.

I am proud to be the lead sponsor of a Congressional resolution that recognizes the achievements of Citizens Bank and the achievements of all minority banks across the country. It is my hope that this Congress will